

REMARKS

Claims 3-10 were pending in the present application. Claims 4-10 were rejected. Claims 4, 5, 8 and 10 are herein amended. Claim 3 is herein cancelled without prejudice.

Applicants' Response to Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP-4114145 (JP '415) in view of JP-1194015 (JP '015).

It is the position of the Office Action that JP '415 discloses the invention as claimed, with the exception of the second attachment fitting being made of aluminum. The Office Action relies on JP '015 to provide this teaching. Applicants herein amend claim 10 in order to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 3. Thus, claim 10 and all claims dependent thereon are allowable, and the rejection is moot. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '415 in view of JP '015, and in further view of JP-2568225 (JP '225).

It is the position of the Office Action that the combination of JP '415 and JP '015 discloses the invention as claimed, with the exception of a sealing agent between the bolt and the second attachment fitting. The Office Action relies on JP '225 to provide this teaching. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 4 is patentable due to its dependency on claim 10, which Applicants submit is patentable for at least the reasons discussed above. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Amendment
Serial No. 10/527,800
Attorney Docket No. 052277

Claims 5-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '415 in view of JP '015, and in further view of JP-2001173689 (JP '689).

It is the position of the Office Action that the combination of JP '415 and JP '015 discloses the invention as claimed, with the exception of the inner wall surface of a through-hole being, at its lower end, provided with a non-serration bonding portion between the inner wall surface and the bolt. The Office Action relies on JP '689 to provide this teaching. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 5-9 are patentable due to their dependency on claim 10, which Applicants submit is patentable for at least the reasons discussed above. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP-6249282 (JP '282) in view of JP '015.

It is the position of the Office Action that JP '282 discloses the invention as claimed, with the exception of the second attachment fitting being made of aluminum. The Office Action relies on JP '015 to provide this teaching. As discussed above, Applicants herein incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 3 into claim 10. Thus, claim 10 and all claims dependent thereon are allowable and the rejection is moot. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Amendment
Serial No. 10/527,800
Attorney Docket No. 052277

Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '282 in view of JP '015, and in further view of JP '225.

It is the position of the Office Action that the combination of JP '282 and JP '015 discloses the invention as claimed, with the exception of a sealing agent between the bolt and the second attachment fitting. The Office Action relies on JP '225 to provide this teaching. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 4 is patentable due to its dependency on claim 10, which Applicants submit is patentable for at least the reasons discussed above. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 5-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '282 in view of JP '015, and in further view of JP '689.

It is the position of the Office Action that the combination of JP '282 and JP '015 discloses the invention as claimed, with the exception of the inner wall surface of a through-hole being, at its lower end, provided with a non-serration bonding portion between the inner wall surface and the bolt. The Office Action relies on JP '689 to provide this teaching. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 5-9 are patentable due to their dependency on claim 10, which Applicants submit is patentable for at least the reasons discussed above. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

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Allowable Subject Matter

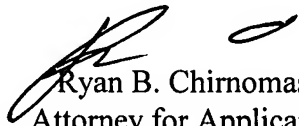
The Office Action indicates that claim 3 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As noted above, Applicants herein amend claim 10 to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 3. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are now allowable, and it is requested that the application pass on to issue.

For at least the foregoing reasons, the claimed invention distinguishes over the cited art and defines patentable subject matter. Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action by applicants would be desirable to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned attorney.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
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